



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 26 2016

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

MEMORANDUM

To: All Reclamation Employees

From: Estevan R. López
Commissioner

Subject: I Care About Safety

For a moment, think about the things you care about most in life – time with family and friends, your favorite pastimes, the importance of your daily work and our important mission. For you, your coworkers and your loved ones, safety is of paramount importance. This is why we must constantly strive to maintain a safe environment for employees, contractors and our many visitors. For 114 years, we have shared a proud history of doing amazing work on behalf of the American people. One of my top priorities is to ensure we continue this tradition of safety and success. I want you to take your safety and the public's safety very seriously. It doesn't matter if you are a manager, team leader or a worker – we all need to have our words and actions proclaim: **"I Care About Safety."**

Unfortunately, in recent years, there have been some workplace injuries and incidents across Reclamation. These have caused us to reexamine our safety culture. In response to concerns that complacency may have crept into our workplace culture, we have developed a Safety Action Plan, with 21 teams of employees from across the employee and management spectrum to tackle specific areas of concern. The team recommendations will be a key to strengthen our safety culture. The task at hand is to now evaluate and implement the teams' many recommendations.

Once this evaluation is complete, recommendations will be implemented Reclamation-wide in consultation with the Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Board. Also, because several recommendations from different teams are interrelated, work is now being done to link them together. For example, there were multiple recommendations that involve workforce training. Those will be blended into a single training curriculum.

I ask you to join me in thanking the many managers and employees who have worked tirelessly so far on our Safety Action Plan. As implementation moves ahead, we will share with you the specific objectives we intend to accomplish as we adjust program management, staffing, policies, safety training and communications activities to meet our goals. You can find current information at <http://intra.usbr.gov/safety>.

One final thing: If you feel that safety hazards are not being appropriately addressed, you should say something to your supervisor with the confidence that you have support from your leadership chain, reaching to the highest levels of this organization. We cannot carry out our mission without your commitment. We want you to do the best work possible and to return home safely at the end of the day. Please join me in living the motto: **“I Care About Safety.”**

Thank you for all you do to carry out our important mission. We can't do it without you.